

21st October 1927]

Increased estimates for Tuticorin Harbour scheme.

*789 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

11-15
a.m.

(a) whether in respect of Tuticorin Deep Water Harbour scheme, the commercial interests, both Indian and European, have been interviewed, with regard to dredging and increase in rates as stated in reply to question No. 220, dated 4th March 1927; and

(b) if so, what is the result of such interview?

A—(a) & (b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to G.O. No. 284, Finance (Marine), dated 17th May 1927, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"May I know from the hon. the Law Member whether the question of the present scheme being proceeded with at the present site was referred to a committee of Expert Harbour Engineers?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"It was referred to a committee of Expert Harbour Engineers."

Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"May I know whether the Government have received intimation of the recommendations of this committee of Expert Harbour Engineers?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"We received a telegram regarding the suggestions as to what should be done before they submit their final report."

Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"In view of the fact that the Committee of Expert Harbour Engineers is going to be against the continuance of the present scheme and it has recommended an alternative scheme, may I know whether the Government are prepared to suspend the operations at least now?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"The Government have already suspended the dredging operations."

Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"May I know how long the operations are going to be suspended in pursuance of the present policy of the Government?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I cannot say that exactly."

Motor Vehicles Act

Rates of charges for taxis.

*790 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) when the rates of charges for motor vehicles running for hire were fixed;

(b) whether the prices of motor vehicles and of petrol have gone down since then;

(c) whether the services of chauffeurs also have become cheaper since then; and

(d) whether the Government have considered the desirability of reducing the rates that can be charged?

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A.—(a) The fee payable for the grant of 'G' permits for motor vehicles to ply for hire was fixed in 1916. The scale of fares payable by passengers and the rates of licence fees are determined by each District Board by means of by-laws framed under subsection (2) of section 166 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920. As the by-laws were adopted by the several District Boards on different dates no particular date can be given.

(b) The Government believe so.

(c) The Government have no information.

(d) No.

Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED:—"With reference to the answer to clause (d), may I know whether he will consider the proposal to reduce the rates of charges for motor vehicles?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The question has already been answered."

Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED:—"May I submit that the answer of the Government is that they have not considered the desirability of reducing the rates? My present question is whether they will consider the question now."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"No, Sir."

Panchayat Courts

*Villagers in each community eligible for membership of the
Pudupadi Village Panchayat Court.*

* 791 Q.—Rao Sahib R. SRINIVASAN: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the number of resident adult male villagers, among Brahmans, Non-Brahmans and Adi-Dravidas, eligible to be members of the Pudupadi Village Panchayat Court, Wallajah taluk, North Arcot district?

A.—Brahmans 11, Non-Brahmans 8, and Adi-Dravidas 1.

Police

Alleged shooting and torture by the Police in Kurnool district.

* 792 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO: With reference to the reply to my question No. 354 answered on 27th August 1927, regarding shooting and torture by the Police in Kurnool district, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to place the information called for on the table of the House?

A.—Yes. A statement is laid on the table. *

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"I see from the appendix that the statement is given for the year 1927. My question was what was the number of cases of torture and shooting from 1925 up to date. Am I to take it that in 1925 and 1926 there were no torture cases?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"The information placed on the table is all that has been reported to the Government. I will make further enquiries whether there were any cases in 1925 and 1926."